



Recreation Fee Program 2003

# Forest Accomplishments

## Willamette National Forest

Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

### *Cabin Rentals Create Genuine Historic Experience*



The Hall House provides a fun and informative winter experience for visitors.

Sitting next to a fire as it warms the cabin, a person feels transported back in time...back to when horses were the preferred mode of transportation and when travelers welcomed the site of a few rustic buildings on a lonely mountain.

Because history like this can be easily forgotten, the Willamette National Forest is using the Cabin Rental program to ensure it remains at places like the Fish Lake Remount Depot.

The Depot is located near the top of Santiam Pass and was once a popular rest stop for weary travelers on the old Santiam Wagon Road. The Forest Service also used the area as a place to house fire fighters and corral horses. Once Highway 20 was built, the site was no-longer needed as a way station, but the Forest Service continued to use it for many years. It is still used in the summer by the Forest's horse packer as a resting and re-supplying point between her trips into Wilderness Areas.

Today, two buildings at the site, the Hall House and the Dispatcher's Cabin, are part of the Forest's popular cabin rental program. People can rent these cabins from November until March. They must often ski or snowshoe to the site, but that doesn't seem to deter anyone's enthusiasm, according to Jim Denney, who is the facilities manager at the Remount Depot. **"This is a genuine historic experience, not something made up," he said. "It's a real place, with real buildings and the real fingerprints of the people who were there."**

Jim has been restoring the buildings using money collected from fees, and volunteer labor. He has also been able to use the fee dollars as leverage money to apply for grants to help bring even more funding to the site. Fee dollars largely pay for expensive materials that match originals, as well as for local contractor help and volunteer subsistence.

As an example of the enthusiasm of volunteers, Jim has had a family and friends group from Michigan volunteer at the site for two years. This family gives their time to projects like Habitat for Humanity and building a school in South Africa. They believe that keeping the historical integrity of the Fish Lake is important and plan to return.

This year these volunteers and others completed major structural work such as log replacement for the siding and new foundations. In addition roofs were placed on three buildings including the blacksmith's shop.

### More Detailed Information

#### Forest Website:

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette)

Pacific Northwest Region  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6)

### Forest Accomplishments

Prepared by the  
Willamette  
National Forest.

Program coordination:  
Julie Cox  
(541) 225-6301

Information Contact  
Julie Cox  
(541) 225 - 6301



### *Your Fees At Work:*

This dispatcher's cabin is a popular winter

## The Fees:

Project Name	Total Dollars Collected Since Project Began	Dollars Collected 2003	Collection Costs 2003	% Collect vs Revenue \$
Northwest Forest Pass (incl Trail Park & Cougar)	\$ 1,030,965	\$ 219,961	\$ 18,408	8%
Heritage	\$ 65,688	\$ 14,775	\$ 171	1%
Camping	\$ 220,240	\$ 54,936	\$ 8,508	15%
Golden Passes	\$ 19,695	\$ 8,917	\$ 0	0
Cabin Rental	\$ 64,118	\$ 13,781	\$ 1,185	8.5%

## The Accomplishments:



### Northwest Forest Pass:

About 450 miles of trail were maintained, cleared, brushed or received tread repair or erosion control measures (such as waterbars). Six bridges were repaired or replaced (including three wilderness log/foot bridges). Hunts Cove Trail was reconstructed at Detroit. Improvements were made at numerous trailheads, and hosts or increased presence occurred at high use trailheads. Temporary toilets were installed at trailheads where needed. At Cougar Hot Springs, the fees covered natural vegetation landscaping occurred around new permanent toilets at the parking lot. Fees also covered general costs such as toilets, a garbage dumpster, a pool cleaning contract, increased patrolling for visitor safety and routine maintenance.



### Heritage Expeditions:

Fees helped fund an expedition where local students restored historic Civilian Conservation Corps era sites such as the Old Santiam Wagon Road. They also trained citizens in cultural resource stewardship principles and "Leave No Trace" backcountry concepts. Finally they were used to update cultural map records and conduct heritage inventories. In addition the fees enabled 130 people to participate in 8 hikes. These hikes are of high value to visitors, but could not be conducted without the help of fees.



### Campgrounds: (12 Campgrounds in Willamette NF program).

Fees provided dumpsters, portable toilets, new fire rings, general site maintenance and cleanup, new entrance signs, hazard tree removal, fee collections, compliance, and law enforcement. In addition they repaired a barrier-free trail; and replaced vandalized items like table tops, and information boards and restroom doors.



### Cabin Rentals:

Fees were used for a variety of items to improve or repair rental facilities including the construction of a door to connect a woodshed to a shelter, upgrading a wood stove chimney, installing a wind deflection device, installing flashing to prevent roof leakage, and refurbishing counters and cabinets.